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INVECTIVE AS A WEAPON.

Accepting as well fortified the thesis that advanced civilization demands the abolishment in this country and in some foreign countries of the code duello, occasions yet arise which awaken doubts as to the absolute banefulness of the single combat institution, when conducted under generally accepted rules.

In Ye Olden Times it was universally recognized that hasty and intemperate speech or publication which impugned the integrity or questioned the honesty of another, especially when the person assailed occupied a position of public trust, invited a challenge to mortal combat.

A realization of this fact exercised a two-fold benefit. Knowing that, if wrong, he must fight with pistols, the assailant was cautious. He moved only after convincing himself beyond all reasonable doubt that his was a just cause.

On the other hand, the public man with a natural tendency to go wrong or whose moral scruples were not sufficiently anchored to enable him to resist the blandishments of the self-seeking tempter, nevertheless was restrained from yielding to wrong-doing by reason of his physical fear of the possible consequences of the act.

In those days the hurling of invective and the resort to fierce denunciation were not employed merely as missiles, the impact of which settled finally the question at issue.

When one citizen denounced another as a liar, a wilful trader of character or a blackmailer, he did so advisedly. He expected to be called to physical account in the event that he failed to make good his aspersions.

The failure of the attacked to call him to account was accepted practically as proof of guilt.

Perhaps the duel was a savage method of settling public or personal questions between two gentlemen. It must be admitted, however, that the American brand of duel usually did settle matters in dispute between the combatants. Whether in accordance with the merits of the opposing arguments is another question.

While these observations are suggested by the controversy now on between the editor of the New York World and the President of the United States, they, of course have no application to this particular case. The President could not be expected to challenge anybody to a duel, even if it were lawful. Neither might a citizen challenge the President to mortal combat.

Furthermore, nobody believes that the President was ever knowingly a party to any sort of dishonest job pulled off to the detriment of the interests of the United States government or of the American people.

The facts, when brought out may justify the New York World in suggesting that certain Americans unduly profited by the Panama canal deal, and that the people suffered financially to this extent. On the other hand, it may be disclosed, and all should hope that it will, that the newspaper was in error.

If investigation should develop that

the World was right, the people will believe that Mr. Roosevelt was misled by persons in whom he placed confidence, and yielded to mistaken and ungovernable impulse when he intemperately denounced the agency which honestly sought to expose wrong doing.

But the imbrolio between the President and the New York editor is but an enlargement of incidents which are constantly occurring between individuals lower down in the official scale and persons who assail their public acts. The probability of some of these is not always as impregnable to assault as is that of the President of the United States. Different states are represented in the United States Senate by at least two men against whom indirect charges of bribery by outside influences have been alleged. The launching of abusive language at their enemies so far constitutes their chief defense.

PEANUT TARIFFS LINING UP.

The Danville Tobacco Board of Trade, which represents an American industry that nearly monopolizes the world's trade, and which will send a committee to Washington to urge higher protection for this international "infant," will be collaborated with by the peanut dealers of Eastern Virginia.

The peanut men already have the advantage of 1/2 a cent per pound import duty on unshelled and 1 cent a pound on the shelled products of other countries. This rate in past years has been found ample to enrich members of the cleaners and distributors' combination. But the dealers now appear on behalf of the former. The latter is not complaining—at least not loudly enough to be heard in his own name—but the distributors are going to defend their rights whether or not the planter believes that such rights have been invaded.

The dealers assert that whenever the market is such as to yield "the farmer" a fair margin of profit, the foreign producers swamp it with their products to such an extent as to practically ruin the business.

The alleged competitors are in Spain, Japan, Africa and Java. What with a duty of 1/2 a cent per pound for unshelled and 1 cent a pound on shelled peanuts, with the freight rates from these faraway countries added, would it not be well to hold this curb upon the American dealer, even when he appeals in behalf of the farmer? Who in this section ever saw a native Spanish peanut—that is, a Spanish nut produced in Spain—or an African ground-pea, or one raised in Java or Japan?

A Washington dispatch states that Virginia Republicans, headed by Bacon C. Slomp, have asked President-elect Taft to consider Alvan H. Martin, of Norfolk county for a cabinet position. This announcement is liable to spread consternation in the ranks of the Norfolk county Democracy, which never has been able to find a man suitable to relieve Mr. Martin in the office of clerk of courts.

THE TARIFF ON PEANUTS.

Here are a few facts which the peanut growers who are agitating for an increase of the tariff duties on "goobers" would do well to ponder:

First—it is immeasurably more to the material interest of these growers that the policy of Protection and the unequal distribution of governmental burdens which it inevitably entails, should be done away with than that the duties should be advanced. Even if those duties should be quadrupled or quintupled and every cent of the resultant benefit went into the pockets of the producers and stayed there, it would not begin to compensate for the additional cost to them of everything they have to buy, because of the protective tariff. In demanding to share in the spoils of Protection, they are but helping to fasten the Protective system more securely upon the country and so to postpone indefinitely the day of relief from the burdens and exactions now borne by themselves and eighty millions of other consumers.

Second—it is not the peanut growers, but the large dealers, who will be the chief beneficiaries of increased duties, if they are increased. The great bulk of the farmers sell their crops of peanuts to the dealers soon after they are harvested. This is too early in the season for the tariff duty to have any appreciable effect on the prices offered and received. That would not begin to make itself felt until the crop is nearly all in and an approximately correct estimate of the relation of the whole supply to the domestic demand has been acquired. By that time not one grower in five has any peanut left from which to derive a tariff profit. They have been disposed of to the dealer and it is he who reaps the benefit. Increased tariff duties would benefit the dealer a hundred dollars for every one it put in the pockets of the growers.

Third—in seeking to secure a tariff on peanuts which would be prohibitive in effect, the growers are inviting, if they are not ensuring, a Peanut Combination which would have them at its mercy as fully as the Sugar Trust has

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the cane growers at its. Even now, with the moderate duties obtaining, intimations are persistent that the three dealers in the Virginia-Carolina section are in an agreement to the purpose and design of which are to stiffen competition and so to control the market in a measure at least. Whether or not these intimations have any foundation in fact we do not undertake to say. But we risk little in predicting that, with the tariff raised to two cents per pound, it would not be long before the peanut business of the country would be altogether in the hands of a few concerns working in concert and agreement and regulating almost at will both the price paid to the growers for the raw product and those exacted from the consumers for the cleaned, picked, roasted or otherwise prepared article.

Peanut growers should be warned in time, lest they voluntarily act on all too themselves to be used as a cat's paw for the dealers. They have nothing to gain and everything to lose by a practically prohibitive tariff on the product which they produce.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

PRESIDENT PRAISES ARTIST ST. GAUDENS

Believes American Popular Mind Will Grow to Appreciate Design of Discarded Coins.

(By Associated Press).
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 16.—Portraying Augustus St. Gaudens as a great sculptor, whose works will stand in the very forefront among the masterpieces of the greatest period, and the best productions, President Roosevelt last night at an exhibition of St. Gaudens' works at the Corcoran gallery under the auspices of the American Institute of Architects paid eloquent tribute to that artist's mastery of his craft.

The British, French and Brazilian ambassadors and others made speeches and a large representative following was present.

The President declared that all the world is St. Gaudens' debtor.

"The great nations of antiquity, of the middle ages, and of modern times," he said, "were and are great in each several case, not only because of the collective achievements of each people as a whole, but because of the sum of the achievements of the men of special eminence; and this whether they excelled in war craft or state craft, as road-makers or cathedral builders, as men of letters, men of art or men of science."

Honor Belongs to Nation.
"The field of effort is almost limitless, and pre-eminent success in any part of it should be especially claimed by the nation to which the man achieving the success belongs."

"Particularly should this be so with us. We have conquered a continent; we have laced it with railways; we have dotted it with cities."

"The twilight of letters continues but much is now being done in the field of art."

Defends Coin Design.

Discussing the gold coins whose recent issue by the government awakened a clamor of criticism, the President declared St. Gaudens "Gave us for the first time a beautiful coinage not yet properly appreciated, but one to which both the official and the popular mind will in the end grow."

The President contended that the first few thousands of this coin are beautiful; that the coins since the dawn of the Greeks and that frequent comment on the figure of Liberty, illustrates curiously the exceedingly conventional character of much of our criticism and the frequent inability to understand originality until it has won its place."

FORGED THE NAME OF COLONEL N. S. GROOME

Negro Minister in Washington Se. cures \$250 Upon Bogus Certified Check and is Arrested.

FORGERY IS A CLEVER ONE

It is Said That the Minister Came Here and Held a Revival Service—His Congregation in Washington is Trying to Pay the Money and Prevent Prosecution.

Charged with forging the name of Colonel Nelson S. Groome, cashier of the Bank of Hampton, to a certified check for \$250, which he had cashed in Washington, Rev. Theodore Hawkins, a negro minister, is under arrest in the capital city.

Just who Rev. Hawkins is, is not positively known here, although it is said that he came here sometime ago and conducted a revival service. He is said to be the pastor of a big negro church in Washington and word from that city is to the effect that his church is endeavoring to prevent the minister from going to Sing Sing for ten years.

According to the banking authorities here the forgery was one of the cleverest that has been executed in many years. Securing a rubber stamp usually used by a cashier in certifying checks, Rev. Theodore Hawkins signed Colonel Groome's name to the check. The stamp was made out in the name of the Bank of Hampton and is a fac simile of the cashier stamp used by the Galilean Fisherman's bank here, although the Bank of Hampton is substituted. The signature of Colonel Groome is almost identical with the handwriting of Mr. Groome and it is supposed that Hawkins by some means got hold of Colonel Groome's signature and traced it on the certified check he is accused of forging. When the check, which was cashed by the Merchants and Mechanics Bank, of Washington, was received here, Colonel Groome immediately recognized the forgery and he so informed the Washington bank by long distance telephone. The check was made payable to Joseph Brown and was signed by R. R. Brant. The cashier's certification was printed across the face of the check and was duly signed by "Nelson S. Groome."

Upon being informed of the forgery the Washington bank got busy and soon had Hawkins under arrest. The arrest of Rev. Theodore Hawkins was communicated to Colonel Nelson S. Groome yesterday. It was said that the Washington bank will likely not prosecute Hawkins as his congregation has promised to make good the \$250, which the Washington Bank will have to lose unless they accept the church's proposition.

Although nothing official was given out it is understood that should the Washington bank refuse to prosecute Hawkins that Colonel Groome will do so, as he is unwilling that a forger of the cleverness displayed by Hawkins shall go unwhipped of the law.

GOVERNMENT GETS DEED FROM STATE OF VIRGINIA

Paper Giving Authority to Acquire 100 Acres of Mill Creek Placed On Record Yesterday.

The deed giving to the United States government permission to acquire 100 acres of land, by filling in Mill creek, for the purpose of enlarging the Fort Monroe reservation was admitted to record in the clerk's office of Elizabeth City county yesterday. The deed is from the State of Virginia and was issued by authority of the last session of the Virginia legislature.

Under the terms of the deed the government is given the right to acquire the property, but it must indemnify all persons interested. It is said that the government will reclaim 39 acres on the north of the Chesapeake and Ohio tracks going to Old Point and about 11 acres lying between the reservation and trestles on the south side going to Fort Monroe. This means that all the section of water from the Chesapeake and Ohio station to Mill creek bridge between the main road and the railway trestles will be filled in. It is said that there is much valuable oyster grounds on both sides of the road and that the government will have to purchase these tracts from the persons now holding claims to them. The oyster beds are said to be among the best and most productive along Hampton Roads.

After the tracts have been filled in by the erection of two great sea walls, the Fort Monroe reservation will be the largest among the army posts. Most of the new property will be used in enlarging the parade grounds and for other government purposes.

Another interesting report around Old Point is that the war department has decided that all frame buildings on the entire reservation shall be replaced by brick structures. This would mean that the present private

Hampton, Phoebus and Old Point

buildings will also give way to brick structures in the near future. It is estimated that it will cost a half million dollars to fill the portions of Mill Creek which the state permitted and this work will be started within a few months.

CASTRO'S ENEMIES WRECK MUCH PROPERTY

(Continued from First Page).

strants, resulted in several fatalities. A criminal action has been begun against Editor Rivas and other employees of the paper, in which they are charged with responsibility for these deaths.

It is declared that Rivas and his men fired first on the people, making use of revolvers.

El Constitucional has suspended publication and Caracas is practically without a newspaper.

The funeral of Mariano Rojas, one of the men killed in the fighting of yesterday, has been fixed for tomorrow.

A vast crowd will turn out and further disorder and rioting are expected.

Castro Doesn't Believe It.
BERLIN, Dec. 16.—President Castro, of Venezuela, maintains his composure in the face of alarming reports which have been published here regarding the disturbances in Venezuela.

When dispatches were shown to him today that the people of Caracas had arisen against him, burned the pictures and statues of the president and had made an attack upon a number of buildings including the stores of several of his warmest adherents, and that several persons had been killed, Castro after having one of the members of his party, make a translation of these in Spanish, said:

Doubts Truth of Reports.
"I don't believe it. I had despatches from Caracas this morning but they mentioned nothing of the kind."

President Castro was asked for an expression of his views regarding Holland's seizure of Venezuelan ships, but he answered "I am in Germany in a private capacity."

He referred the correspondent to Senator Veloz-Goiticoa, the Venezuelan charge d'affaires, whom he authorized to talk for him.

The charge then made the following statement:

"In reply to your question, I doubt what has been published with regard to Holland's aggression, because no declaration of war has been made nor has a blockade been announced, and none established; therefore the seizure of small Venezuelan vessels by sheer force cannot be described other than as an act of piracy unworthy of any enlightened civilized country."

Holland's Course Dangerous.
"On the other hand such a course would jeopardize the arrangements which Venezuela has proposed to Holland through confidential agents, and could even have a worse effect, inasmuch as Venezuela, in meeting payments due to Holland takes for that purpose a portion of the prescribed 30 per cent of the customs receipts. Thus Holland's act might place Venezuela in a position of being unable to continue payment, which also would jeopardize the interests of other nations."

Holland is in the wrong in the difficulty between that country and Venezuela and she is still more involved through the attitude which the Dutch government recently has adopted.

"In view of this state of the case, the Venezuelan government has informed the diplomatic corps at Caracas of these facts and is waiting before taking any further steps."

AMERICAN CONSUL REPORTS

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 16.—Through American Consul Chery, at Caracas, the state department today received its first official information of the stirring events in Caracas Monday.

It was very brief, giving few details and confirming in part the Associated Press dispatches of the happenings in that city.

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Trains arrive Newport News, 10:00 a. m.; 10:35 a. m.; 5:35 p. m. and 7:30 p. m.
Steamer Service for Norfolk, Leave Newport News 10:40 a. m., 5:40 p. m.

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Steamers Brandon and Berkley leave Pier "A" 8:30 every evening passengers only.

VIRGINIA NAVIGATION COMPANY. James River Day Line for Richmond and all James River landings. Steamer Pocahontas leaves Newport News, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8:45 a. m. Leave Newport News Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5 p. m. for Norfolk and Old Point.

Steamer Hampton will leave Pier "A" daily except Sunday, at 9:00 a. m., going to Norfolk, and at 4:30 p. m., going to Smithfield. Steamer "Accomac" will leave Pier "A" daily, except Sunday at 9 a. m. going to Smithfield and 3 p. m., going to Norfolk. All business between New York and Newport News transacted at pier No. 3.

All business between Newport News, Norfolk, Smithfield and local points transacted at Pier "A" foot of Twenty-fifth st. W. H. LANDON, Agent.

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Effective Sept. 28, 1903.

Subject to change without notice.

Leave Norfolk	Leave Sewall's Point	Leave Shipboard	Arrive Avenue	Leave
7:30	8:00	6:30	6:40	
9:00	9:30	8:45	9:00	
10:30	11:00	10:15	10:30	
12:00	12:30	11:15	11:30	
1:30	2:00	2:45	3:00	
3:00	3:30	4:15	4:30	
4:30	5:00	5:45	6:00	
6:00	6:30	7:45	8:00	
8:00	8:30			

NORFOLK—WHITE CITY

Cars leave Norfolk daily every 30 minutes from 6 a. m. to 11:00 p. m. First car leaves White City 6:45 a. m. and every 30 minutes until 11:15 p. m.

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Lv. Norfolk 6:00 p. m.
Lv. Old Point 7:00 p. m.
Ar. Washington 7:00 a. m.

Lv. Wash. B. & O. Ry. 9:00 a. m.
Ar. Phila. B. & O. Ry. 11:50 a. m.
Ar. N. Y. B. & O. Ry. 2:10 p. m.